



**2016  
CA. RESIDENTIAL CODE  
R311.7.8**

**R311.7.8 Handrails.** Handrails shall be provided on not less than one side of each continuous run of treads or flight with four or more risers.

**R311.7.8.1 Height.** Handrail height, measured vertically from the sloped plane adjoining the tread nosing, or finish surface of ramp slope, shall be not less than 34 inches (864 mm) and not more than 38 inches (965 mm).

**R311.7.8.2 Continuity.** Handrails for stairways shall be continuous for the full length of the flight, from a point directly above the top riser of the flight to a point directly above the lowest riser of the flight. Handrail ends shall be returned or shall terminate in newel posts or safety terminals. Handrails adjacent to a wall shall have a space of not less than 1 1/2 inch (38 mm) between the wall and the handrails.

**Exceptions:**

- (1) Handrails shall be permitted to be interrupted by a newel post at the turn.
- (2) The use of a volute, turnout, starting easing or starting newel shall be allowed over the lowest tread.

**FIG. 20**

